INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1563 — Washington, D. C. — November 19, 1955

Food and Nutrition Research

Intensified studies of the role of animal and vegetable fats in human nutrition and the availability to the body of nutrients from various foods were among the lines of research considered most urgent by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Research Advisory Committee.

The committee, meeting in Washington November 7-9, generally endorsed the current program and future plans for food and nutrition research by the Department, but strongly urged further expansion of scientific investigations in the field of human nutrition.

This committee, established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, meets annually. Its detailed recommendations for USDA food and nutrition research in fiscal year 1958 discussed at this year's meeting, are to be submitted formally to the Department within the next few weeks.

Specific areas in which the committee indicated a need for new or expanded work by the Department included the following:

PRODUCTION RESEARCH

Study of insecticide residues on plants and animal products, both from the standpoint of their direct effect on human nutrition and indirect effects through their toxicity to plants and soils.

Investigation of plant sources of vitamin B_{12}, and factors affecting the use of this relatively new vitamin by animals.

Research on the role played by mineral elements in animal nutrition and the relation of mineral nutrition of plants to their content of toxic substances.

UTILIZATION RESEARCH

Besides the need for expanded work on fats in human nutrition and on the physiological availability of nutrients from foods, the committee saw high priority needs for utilization research in a number of other fields, including:

Study of household food losses, involving collection of weighed records of kitchen and plate discards from selected groups in the population, to

(Please turn to page 346)

Morrill Speaks at Indiana

Canned foods that were recoverable after an atomic attack would be safe to eat, it was stated by N.C.A. President George B. Morrill, Jr., in his speech November 17 before the Indiana Canners Association.

"The nuclear tests of 25,000 samples of canned food in tin and glass containers, conducted last spring in Nevada, have demonstrated that history repeats itself—that canned foods are a safe and protective form of food for use of the armed forces or civilian populations under the new type of warfare of this day and age," he stated. Mr. Morrill had told the Indiana canners how canned foods in World War II bombings of European cities often proved to be the only source of food and drink for vast populations whose refrigeration and electrical facilities had been disrupted.

Using color slides, picturing 18 different tests conducted on the Yucca Flats, Mr. Morrill demonstrated how well the products had withstood a fission blast of the strength of approximately 35,000 tons of TNT at distances ranging from a quarter of a mile to three miles from ground zero.

It was revealed, he stated, that canned foods on shelves or basements about three-fourths of a mile from the explosion came through the blast relatively better than the houses in which they were stored, and were found relatively free of radioactivity. Dislodgment from shelves and flying missiles were the principal causes of physical damage, but the big majority of containers were undamaged and safe for use.

Similar results were obtained, Mr. Morrill reported, when canned foods were exposed in shelters, in buildings simulating grocery stores and warehouses, in cases stacked on the desert floor (as a test of fallout) and in house trailers.

The Information Division prepared and distributed press and radio-TV releases on the favorable showing of canned foods under nuclear conditions to 144 Indiana newspapers, 73 radio-TV news directors in Indiana,

(Please turn to page 346)

1955 Pack of Sweet Corn

The 1955 pack of canned sweet corn totaled 29,208,329 actual cases, about 21 percent less than the 1954 pack of 36,761,013 cases, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

On the basis of standard cases of 24/2's the 1955 pack amounted to 24,075,000 cases, compared with 30,619,000 cases in 1954.

The 1955 pack was below that of 1954 in all states except Maine, Indiana, Utah, Colorado, and Montana.

Details of the pack are reported on page 346.

Additional Public Information on QMC Purchases

Additional information on military procurement of canned foods is being made public by the Quartermaster Market Centers and the U. S. Department of Commerce.

All proposed procurements of nonperishable foods in excess of $10,000 will continue to be summarized and reported to the Commerce Department for inclusion in the "Synopsis of U. S. Government Proposed Procurement, Sales, and Contract Awards" issued by the Department's Office of Field Services. In addition, the summaries will now appear also on the bulletin boards of the QM Market Centers preparing the report.

Contracts for nonperishable foods will continue to be summarized in a weekly report to the Commerce Department for inclusion in the synopsis. In addition, a copy of the summary of awards over $25,000 and a summary of all awards of nonperishable foods in amounts between $1,000 and $25,000 are available now for perusal on the bulletin board at the awarding Market Center. When jams, jellies and preserves are purchased, the summaries of awards will be broadened to specify the quantities and dollar value by individual flavors.

For the first time, copies of all contracts in excess of $1,000 for both perishable and nonperishable items are available for perusal at the issuing Market Center.

Indiana Canners Meeting

(Concluded from page 345)

the canning trade journals, and national, local and state wire services.

Mr. Morrill and President Arthur H. Noble of the Indiana Canners Association were jointly interviewed by Phyllis Knight, director of the home department of Louisville's radio station WHAS. They gave comment on the importance of the canning industry to the public from both the national and state points of view, on the program entitled "Your Home," which is broadcast throughout Kentucky and southern Indiana.

Food and Nutrition Research

(Concluded from page 345)

determine the extent to which foods served are actually being consumed.

Analytical studies on food consumption and dietary levels in the United States; development of more rapid and reliable methods to measure food palatability; study of dietary factors affecting human requirements for amino acids, the "building blocks" of proteins; and research on forming food budgets, based on current nutritional recommendations, food consumption patterns, and food prices.

Marketing Research

Research on the control of insects that infest stored agricultural products to prevent wastage and insure the wholesomeness of processed foods, including the development of insect-resistant packaging.

Conducting various studies to aid in preserving the nutritive quality of fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, and eggs in marketing channels.

Development of instruments and objective tests for measuring food-crop quality, and research on the consumption of processed foods and on consumption of milk by school children.

1955 Pack of Corn by Grade

Grade	1954	1955
	(actual cases)	
Fancy	29,706,105	24,387,908
Extra Std.	5,144,314	3,609,459
Standard	1,820,594	1,210,962
U. S. Total	36,761,013	29,208,329

1955 Pack of Corn by Container Size

Container Size	1954	1955
	(cases)	(cases)
No. 2	(a)	(a)
6 oz. short and tall	3,707,195	2,536,177
No. 1 Picnic	228,211	104,959
12 oz. vacuum	7,588,638	7,276,687
No. 303 and No. 300	22,992,635	17,714,411
No. 10	2,199,119	1,492,994
Miscellaneous	75,015	83,101
U. S. Total	36,761,013	29,208,329

(a) Small amount included in miscellaneous.

Wisconsin Canners Association

The Wisconsin Canners Association elected the following officers recently at the association's annual convention:

President—Gordon J. Verhulst, Calumet-Dutch Packing Co., Sheboygan; vice president—W. H. Stare, Stokely-Van Camp, Inc., Columbus; treasurer—O. V. Otteson, Friday Canning Corp., New Richmond (reelected); recording secretary—C. J. Blaska, Oconomowoc Canning Co., Oconomowoc; and executive secretary—Marvin P. Verhulst, Madison (reelected).

Pimientos for Processing

Preliminary estimates place the 1955 production of pimientos for processing at 34,100 tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This exceeds the 1954 production of 22,150 tons by about 54 percent and the 1944-53 average production of 20,020 tons by 70 percent.

The estimate of acreage harvested in 1955 is 26,500 acres, 15 percent less than the 31,300 acres harvested in 1954. The 1955 yield of 1.29 tons per acre compares with a record low yield of 0.71 tons per acre last year.

The preliminary estimate of production in Georgia is 21,600 tons, compared with 13,650 tons obtained there last year.

Cucumbers for Pickles

Although acreage of cucumbers for pickles was reduced 10 percent, a record high yield resulted in a production 2 percent larger than last year's. According to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA, preliminary estimates place the 1955 production of cucumbers for pickles at 12,978,000 bushels. This compares with 12,767,000 bushels produced in 1954 and the 10-year average of 10,441,000 bushels.

Stocks of salt and dill pickles in tanks and barrels on October 1, 1955, are estimated at 11,917,000 bushels, 5 percent less than the revised estimate of 12,510,000 bushels on hand October 1, 1954. Holdings from the current year's crop were practically the same this year and last—9,193,000 and 9,197,000 bushels, respectively. The reduction was largely in the carryover from previous crops—2,724,000 bushels compared with 3,313,000 bushels last year.

Taking into account both the estimated stocks and the 1955 production of 12,978,000 bushels, the indicated disappearance for the year ending September 30, 1955, was a record 13,571,000 bushels. This compares with 12,840,000 bushels for 1954, 12,328,000 bushels in 1953, and 12,078,000 bushels in 1952.

1955 Pack of Corn by Variety, Region, and State

Region and State	White		Golden	
	1954	1955	1954	1955
	(actual cases)		(actual cases)	
East:				
Me., Vt., and N. H.	.....	.....	385,938	561,034
New York	.....	.....	1,308,319	907,216
Maryland	559,668	188,352	1,283,716	826,906
Pennsylvania	262,452	136,054	542,122	362,259
Other states	17,145	8,209	175,249	104,541
Midwest:				
Ohio	(a)	(a)	817,881	718,070
Indiana	524,126	328,291	586,666	880,407
Illinois	2,011,677	1,114,809	4,833,014	4,063,852
Wisconsin	398,382	81,533	7,734,144	5,482,197
Minnesota	(a)	265,304	7,979,330	7,055,922
Iowa	144,780	84,580	2,309,950	1,397,315
Other states	344,553	124,754	265,458	317,340
Western states	.....	.....	4,216,434	4,199,368
U. S. Total	4,262,783	2,331,886	32,498,230	26,876,443

(a) Included in other states.

1955 Pack of Corn by Region, Color, and Style

	East	Midwest	West	Total
	(actual cases)			
White:				
Cream style	35,641	1,478,281	(a)	1,513,922
Whole kernel	296,974	520,990	(a)	817,964
Golden:				
Cream style	1,761,250	8,339,878	2,473,028	12,574,156
Whole kernel	1,000,716	11,575,231	1,726,340	14,302,287
Total	3,094,581	21,914,380	4,199,368	29,208,329

(a) White included under Golden in West.

Fall-Crop Spinach

The November 1 indicated production of fall-crop spinach for processing is 36,000 tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. If this production materializes, it will be the largest fall crop of processing spinach in the seven-year period for which comparable figures are available. The 1955 fall acreage is substantially above the relatively low acreages of 1952-54.

In Arkansas about half of the fall acreage was seeded in the dust. The remainder—except for irrigated acreage—is half grown and making little growth. The outcome of the crop there depends upon timely adequate rains and how soon freezing weather sets in. The Oklahoma crop is also in need of rain. Harvest started in that state about November 1. Planting is continuing there and will increase if it rains soon. Exceptionally high yields are reported in California.

The prospective total production for 1955 is 130,660 tons. If realized, this will be the largest since 1951.

State and Seasonal Group	Acreage 1954 Rev.	Acreage 1955 Prelim.	Production 1954 Rev.	Production 1955 Prelim.
	(acres)		(tons)	
Texas				
Winter	4,500	4,500	5,800	5,800
California	7,400	9,300	49,400	65,200
Early Spring	6,200	8,000	42,800	56,800
Fall	1,200	1,300	6,600	8,400
Virginia	1,100	1,450	2,600	4,400
Late Spring	800	1,000	2,000	3,000
Fall	300	450	600	1,400
Maryland	2,000	2,100	4,700	5,400
Late Spring	1,100	1,100	2,800	2,900
Fall	900	1,000	2,200	2,500
New York				
Late Spring	1,100	1,300	6,800	10,660
Arkansas	2,820	4,100	5,660	7,300
Late Spring	2,700	3,100	5,400	5,300
Fall	120	1,000	260	2,000
Oklahoma	4,200	6,400	8,100	14,900
Late Spring	3,600	3,800	7,200	8,400
Fall	600	2,600	900	6,500
Washington	490	790	3,380	5,400
Late Spring	130	290	680	1,800
Fall	360	500	2,700	3,600
Other states				
Fall	1,300	2,150	4,900	11,600
Total, 9 states	24,910	32,000	91,340	130,660
Winter and Spring	20,130	23,000	73,180	94,660
Fall	4,780	9,000	18,160	36,000

Dry Bean Production

Production of dried beans in the Eastern states, which amounts to a half-billion pound a year crop, is discussed in detail in a new U. S. Department of Agriculture farmers bulletin.

Main item for prospective growers of dry beans to consider is the availability of handling and marketing facilities, the bulletin says. The bulletin also discusses marketing, cleaning, and grading, and factors which limit production.

The 30-page bulletin (F. B. 2083), entitled *Dry Bean Production in the Eastern States*, may be obtained from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Lima Beans for Processing

A total of 85,830 tons of green lima beans for processing was harvested in 1955, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This preliminary estimate compares with 103,020 tons obtained in 1954 and the 1944-53 average of 70,910 tons.

The revised estimate of acreage planted to green lima beans for processing in 1955 is 107,420 acres. The preliminary estimate of acreage harvested is 101,530 acres. The difference between the planted and harvested acreage, or 5,890 acres, represents acreage from which no green lima beans were harvested for canning, freezing, or other processing.

The 1955 yield of green lima beans for processing is 1,691 pounds per acre. Last year, 1,841 pounds of shelled lima beans were obtained. The 1944-53 average is 1,550 pounds.

The 1955 production of lima beans for freezing is 60,540 tons. Last year, 68,560 tons were produced for freezing. The 1955 production for canning and other processing is estimated at 25,290 tons. This compares with 34,460 tons for 1954.

State	10-year ave. 1944-53	1954 Revised	1955 Preliminary	Percent change from 1954
	(tons—shelled)			
New York	1,620	3,360	2,620	−22
Pennsylvania	2,510	2,560	2,200	−14
Ohio	370	340	540	+59
Michigan	1,460	1,440	1,060	−26
Wisconsin	3,740	8,060	4,760	−41
Delaware	12,270	16,660	12,710	−24
Maryland	2,600	3,710	1,980	−47
Virginia	2,460	2,360	1,250	−47
Washington	1,110	1,130	1,020	−10
California	22,310	38,630	35,000	−9
Other states[1]	20,460	24,770	22,690	−8
U. S. Total	70,910	103,020	85,830	−17
For freezing	[2]68,860	68,560	60,540	−12
For canning and other processing	[2]29,460	34,460	25,290	−27

[1] Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kans., Minn., Mo., N. J., Okla., Ore., Tenn., and Utah.
[2] 1952-53 average. Estimates not available prior to 1952.

Laboratory Studies on Beans

At the request of the New York State Canners and Freezers Association, the N.C.A. Washington Research Laboratory carried on extensive tests during the 1955 canning season to gain information on drained weights, headspace discoloration, and other factors in canned green and wax beans. The work to be done was outlined by a subcommittee of the bean canners with the assistance of representatives of the research departments of the N.C.A., Continental Can Company and American Can Company.

Special packs covering the different factors were prepared in several factories in New York. Examinations were made by the N.C.A. Washington Laboratory the day after canning and also about four weeks after canning. All of the results were included in a report on the work. An oral account of the work done was given by N.C.A. staff members and a cutting of cans of each of the lots was made at a special meeting of the bean canners at Rochester, N. Y., on November 15.

Commercial Grades for Beef

Notice is given in the *Federal Register* of November 15 that the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA proposes to amend the U. S. standards for grades of carcass beef by dividing the existing Commercial grade into two new grades to be designated as Standard and Commercial grades.

The present commercial grades for beef are Prime, Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility, Cutter, and Canner. The proposed division of the present Commercial grade would be on the basis of maturity.

Shipments of Metal Cans

Shipments of metal cans for fruits and vegetables, including juice, during the first nine months of 1955 exceeded the volume shipped during the same period of 1954 by about 8 percent, on the basis of a report by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Shipments of cans for fish and sea food were 9 percent less than shipments during the first nine months of last year. Shipments of cans for meat and poultry were down about 8 percent.

	Jan. through Sept. 1954	Jan. through Sept. 1955
	(short tons of steel)	
Fruit and vegetable (including juice)	1,085,301	1,168,644
Fish and sea food	81,651	74,851
Meat (including poultry)	102,568	94,511

Invitations for Bids

Quartermaster Market Centers: 226 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 6, Ill.; 1321 Pendleton St., Columbia, S. C.; Felix at Hemphill St., Fort Worth, Tex.; 623 Hardesty Ave., Kansas City, Mo.; 1204 Santee St., Los Angeles, Calif.; Port of Embarkation, Unit 3, New Orleans, La.; 29th St. and 3d Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.; 2135 Webster St., Alameda, Calif.; 1709 Kelly Rd., Richmond, Va.; P. O. Box 3225, Seattle, Wash.

Veterans Administration: General Supplies Section, Procurement Division, Supply Service, Washington 25, D. C.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act may apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is $10,000 or over.

Chicago has invited bids to furnish:

JAMS—1,916 dozen No. 10 cans of fruit preserves, Fed. Spec. Z-J-96a; and 1,863 dozen No. 10 cans of fruit jellies, Fed. Spec Z-J-191b (NIP 814). Bid opening Nov. 22.

JAMS—2,000 dozen 2-lb. jars of fruit preserves, Fed. Spec. Z-J-96a; and 2,000 dozen 2-lb. jars and 433 dozen No. 10 cans of fruit jellies, Fed. Spec. Z-J-191b (NIP 830). Bid opening Nov. 23.

APPLE BUTTER—3,168 dozen 28-oz. jars, Fed. Spec. Z-A-616a (NIP 837). Bid opening Nov. 28.

CHICKEN—8,376 dozen cans of boned chicken, Mil. Spec. MIL-C-1058b; 8,376 dozen cans of boned turkey, Mil. Spec. MIL-C-1058b; and 8,376 dozen cans of chicken and noodles, Mil. Spec. MIL-C-11076b (NIP 795). Bid opening Nov. 29.

MEAT—100,512 cans of meat and corn, Mil. Spec. MIL-M-1046a; 100,512 cans of ham and eggs, Mil. Spec MIL-H-1035b; and 100,512 cans of ground meat and spaghetti, Mil. Spec. MIL-M-1078b (NIP 828). Bid opening Dec. 1.

BREADS—301,536 5-oz. cans of fruitcake, Mil. Spec. MIL-F-3243c; 201,024 2.2-oz. cans of poundcake, Mil. Spec. MIL-P-3234a; 201,024 4 oz. cans of pecan nut roll, Mil. Spec. MIL-P-35000; and 1,005,204 1.75-oz. cans of bread, Mil. Spec. MIL-B-1070b (NIP 843). Bid opening Nov. 29.

Columbia, S. C., has invited bids to furnish:

ORANGE JUICE—quantities in No. 3 Cyl. cans, Fed. Spec. Z-O-66da (NIP 121). Bid opening Dec. 1.

The Veterans Administration has invited bids to furnish:

MUSHROOMS—9,000 dozen 307 x 510 cans, pieces and stems, Fed. Spec. JJJ-M-851b, Standard grade. Bids under Inv. S-121 opening Nov. 29.

FDA Bans Certain Dyes

The Food and Drug Administration has removed three coal-tar dyes from the list of approved coloring materials which may be added to foods. The three colors are FD&C Orange No. 1, FD&C Orange No. 2, and FD&C Red No. 32.

The FDA said the three colors are harmless in the amounts ordinarily consumed in foods, but recent scientific investigation shows they are not harmless when fed in large amounts.

Text of the FDA order forbidding their use was published in the *Federal Register* of November 16. The order will be effective in 90 days.

Natural Enemy of Citrus Pests

Brumus suturalis, a beneficial lady beetle imported about a year ago from Pakistan, may aid native lady beetles in controlling certain Florida citrus and vegetable pests, it is reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Brumus feeds on many Florida insect pests, including aphids, psyllids, whiteflies, mites, some scale insects, and mealybugs.

The USDA's Fruit and Insect Field Station at Orlando, Fla., is studying the Brumus.

USDA Agricultural Research

Dr. E. C. Elting has been appointed Deputy Administrator for Experiment Stations in USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

In announcing the appointment, USDA pointed out that appropriation of federal funds for research grants to state agricultural experiment stations has doubled in the last two years and now totals about $25 million annually. "The magnitude of this research program and the importance attached to cooperative relations between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the state land-grant colleges and universities is reflected," it was said, "in the change of the Department's top experiment stations officer from Assistant Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service to Deputy Administrator."

Dr. Byron T. Shaw is Administrator of the ARS. Other Deputy Administrators are Dr. George W. Irving, Jr., in charge of ARS federal research activities, and Dr. M. R. Clarkson, in charge of crop and livestock regulatory work.

Olive Oil Agreement

An international agreement on olive oil was approved at Geneva October 17 by delegates from nine countries. The agreement will be open through February 15 at United Nations headquarters for signature by any exporting or importing country.

The nine countries that participated in the Geneva conference were Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Spain, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom. Eleven other countries, including the United States, had observers present.

The agreement calls for establishment of an international Olive Oil Council, which would consider measures to cope with problems arising from the sharp year-to-year fluctuations in olive oil supplies.

The agreement pledges the signatories not to impose any restrictions on the production of olive oil. It also calls for establishment of a joint publicity fund to support a worldwide publicity program to stimulate consumption of olive oil. According to a report by the Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA, the United States probably would be required to contribute to this fund if it were to become a signatory, even though it is a net importer of olive oil.

Delegates at the Geneva conference agreed on and emphasized the importance of standard definitions of various classifications of olive oil, and adopted a resolution regarding establishment of uniform physico-chemical standards and methods of analysis. The conference also discussed arbitration of disputes and a standard international contract of sale.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Food Regulation
FDA bans certain dyes 348

Foreign Trade
Olive oil agreement 348

Meetings
Morrill speaks at Indiana 345

Personnel
Wisconsin Canners Association .. 346
USDA agricultural research 348

Processing
Laboratory studies on beans 347

Procurement
Additional public information on QMC purchases 345
Invitations for bids 348

PAGE

Raw Products
Dry bean production 347

Research
Food and nutrition research 345
Natural enemy of citrus pests ... 348

Standards
Commercial grades for beef 347

Statistics
1955 pack of sweet corn 345
Pimientos for processing 346
Cucumbers for pickles 346
Fall-crop spinach 347
Lima beans for processing 347

Supplies
Shipments of metal cans 347